



Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

FROM: Dave Mitchell

SUBJECT: Martial Cottle Park
Community Garden

DATE: 09-20-13

Approved

Date

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 10

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report on the City's proposed Community Garden at Martial Cottle County/State Park.

BACKGROUND

Martial Cottle Park (the Park) is comprised of 256.6 acres of farmland, a remnant of Santa Clara Valley's agricultural history. The Park is the result of a generous gift from Walter Cottle Lester (the Donor) of 120.12 acres to the County, and the sale of 136.52 acres to the State. The Donor's vision for Martial Cottle Park is that it be jointly developed, operated and maintained as one park to promote and sustain farming traditions, thereby displaying the agricultural heritage of Santa Clara Valley from the mid 1800s to the present. The County is the lead agency regarding the Park development. An additional 30.9 acre parcel, referred to as the Life Estate Area remains in the Donor's ownership; but, will ultimately become part of the Park. The Life Estate is not included as part of the approved Martial Cottle Park State General Plan/County Park Master Plan (the Plan), which will guide the long-term development and management of the Park. The total land area for the State, County and Life Estate holdings is 287 +/- acres in Council District 10. The Park is just north of Highway 85 bounded by Branham to the north, Snell to the east and Chynoweth to the south. Public vehicular entrance to the Park will be from Snell Avenue.

Four land use zones have been established for the Park area in the approved Master Plan. The zones will guide the development of the Park, ensuring that the intensity and character of each area contributes to the overall vision for the Park. The four zones are shown in the Figure 1 and consist of:

- 86 acres +/- for park and recreational uses
- 140 acres +/- for leased agricultural lands for production of agriculture goods
- 20 acres +/- cooperative management lands
- 10 acres +/- habitat enhancement areas

The City's proposed community garden is within the Cooperative Management Zone. This area will be managed and utilized by entities other than County Parks, either through lease agreements, or other arrangements with the County. These subzones were established based on specific use and/or management, and include research, demonstration gardens, youth agriculture, native plant nursery, community gardens and urban forestry.

ANALYSIS

The Park Master Plan denotes that the proposed 1.5 acres community garden would contain publicly accessible garden plots for the use of City and County residents for raising fruit, vegetables, and ornamental plants for personal consumption. PRNS anticipates providing 180 garden plots on the 1.5 acre site, denoted as Lot 4 in Figure 2. The community garden would include perimeter fencing and two entry gates, a storage shed, two shade structures, two waste pick-up areas and 180 (10 feet by 20 feet) raised garden plots. Water connections and hose bib couplets would be installed. Adjacent on site parking and restroom facilities within the Park, could be used by community gardeners. The gardeners will also have access to parking on Chynoweth Avenue.

City staff is in the process of negotiating an agreement with the County to permit the City to construct the community garden in the 2014 calendar year. This agreement will require approval by the City Council. Staff from the Department of Public Works, will provide the design and project management services to develop the proposed community garden.

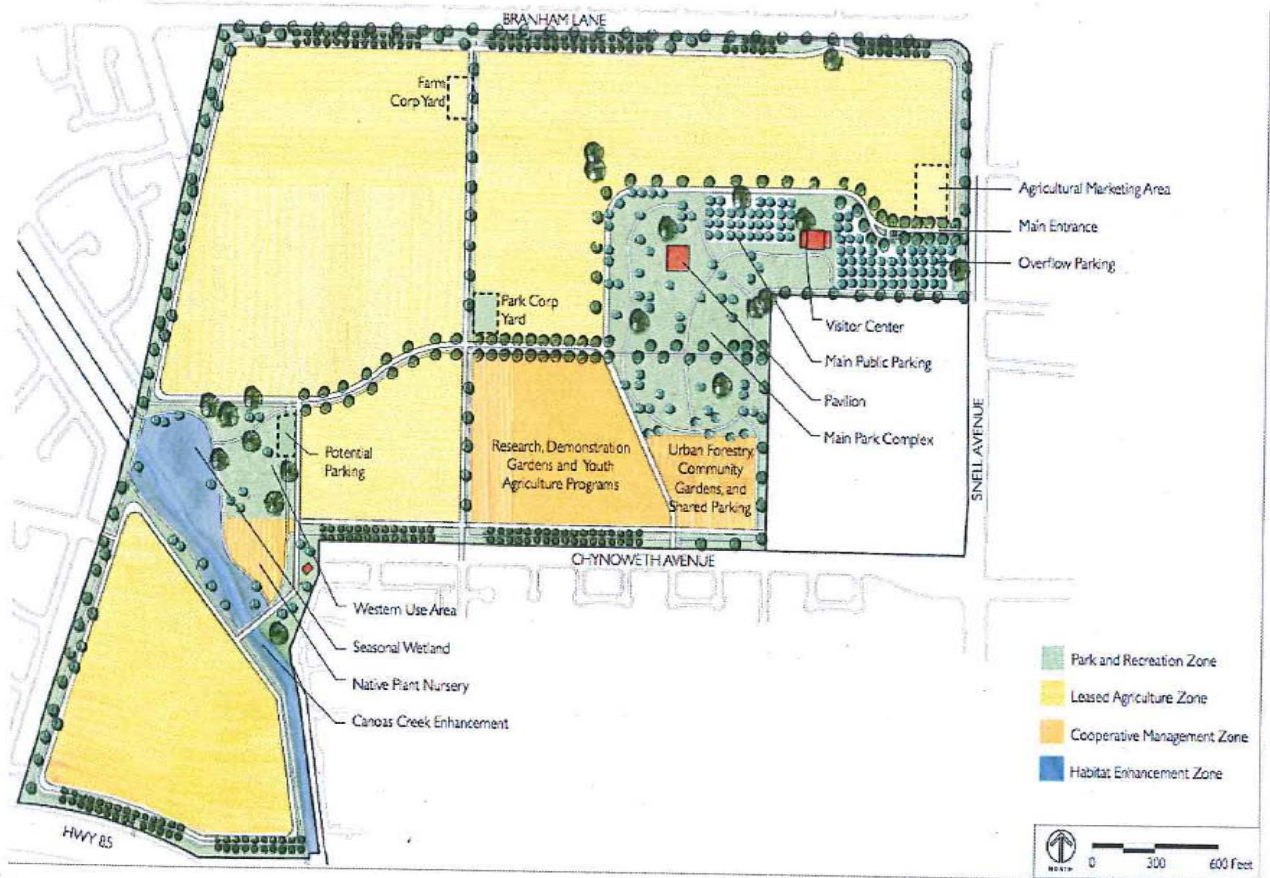
PRNS maintains wait lists of interested gardeners for the City's 18 other community gardens. Currently 32 people have expressed interest in the Martial Cottle Community Garden. PRNS expects to continue to draw interested gardeners from Council Districts 2, 9 and 10 to the Martial Cottle Community Garden. In Council District 10 alone, PRNS has 58 residents signed on the community gardens wait list, seven are specifically interested in the Martial Cottle Community Garden. PRNS staff is planning to initiate a formal outreach campaign for sign-ups starting in Spring of 2014, as we get closer to the anticipated 2014 Fall opening date. In the mean time, residents can go to the Community Garden website at www.sjcommunitygardens.org, or call (408) 793-4165 for additional program information.



DAVID J. MITCHELL
Park Manager

Attachment: Figure 1 – Master Plan Layout
Figure 2 – Lot 4 for the Community Garden

Figure 1
Master Plan Layout for
Martial Cottle Park



Not to Scale

Figure 2
Lot 4 for the Community Garden
within Martial Cottle Park

